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19 MS. ZOLKOVER: Thank you. I'm going to give
20 this talk backwards, because I am going to run out of
21 time.

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22 MODERATOR BROWN: Okay.

23 MS. ZOLKOVER: I am not a scientist, however,
24 I would like to report my findings from respected
25 publications regarding the DOE's past performance

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1 record. I want to --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speak into the mike,
3 please?

4 MS. ZOLKOVER: Pardon?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

6 MODERATOR BROWN: Stand fairly close to it.

7 MS. ZOLKOVER: Okay, I want to add in order
8 to keep things in perspective, 7 millionths of one 28th
9 of a ounce of plutonium ash or dust inhaled gives you
10 lung cancer. In their May 2001 supplement to the draft
11 environmental impact statement, the DOE slips in a
12 minor new detail that they want to drop on the land
13 surface possibly in the near future 40,000 tons of
14 high-level radioactive nuclear waste southeast of the

15 Yucca Mountain about 60 to 70 miles away from

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16 Las Vegas. What about the radioactive dust, insects

17 and birds that would invade Clark County?

18 It would be far safer and cost efficient to

19 follow Scandinavia's example by recasking the nuclear

20 rods in 100-year sealed casks and leave them where they

21 are. And not by recommissioning the nuclear power

22 plants. The United States has much safer and more

23 cost-effective ways to produce energy. This is from

24 the bulletin -- this is part of the DOE record.

25 There's much more, but I don't have time.

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1 The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

2 May-June 2000, Energy into K, by Robert Alvarez, is the

3 former adviser to Secretary of Energy and one of the

4 Senate's energy staff experts. Quote, "In the summer

5 of 1997, I received a phone call from Jim Bailey.

6 Bailey was an ex-marine who worked out of the

7 Department's Oakridge site. He was one of 238 Energy

8 Department special agents who trucked nuclear weapons

9 around the country. Jim's infant daughter Kelly died

10 in '95 of three rare brain tumors, and he was fearful

11 that his exposure to radiation had caused genetic

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12 damage that he had passed on to her. Subsequently,
13 Bailey was tested by a cancer specialist who told him
14 that he had chromosomal damage linked to radiation
15 exposure. At the advice of his doctor, Bailey refused
16 to go back to work, despite the Department's counseling
17 efforts to persuade him that his fears were unfounded.

18 He was fired in September, 1996. A few days
19 later, the Department, without explanation, removed all
20 radiation monitors from all of the vehicles. By that
21 time Bailey was caught up in a protracted legal battle
22 with the Department. Meanwhile, the FBI was
23 investigating alleged security breaches and 18 couriers
24 had been put on suspension after refusing to undergo
25 lie detector tests regarding the alleged leaks.

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1 I brought it to the attention of the new
2 Energy Secretary, Federico Pena, who will replaced
3 Hazel O'Leary. His staff responded positively. Pena
4 had been familiar with at least one concern raised by
5 Bailey before I brought it up.

6 In November '96, an Energy Department truck
7 carrying a nuclear device had skidded off an icy road
8 in Nebraska. Because the radiation monitoring

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9 instruments had been removed by the Department, the
10 United States and its Cabinet and the President then
11 had been clueless about the extent of the public risks
12 for nearly 12 hours. Later investigations found
13 several serious problems with Department's nuclear
14 courier system. Couriers were not provided with
15 adequate information about radiation dangers.

16 After more than a year, the FBI could not
17 substantiate the charges made against the couriers, and
18 the internal Energy Department investigation found that
19 the manager who called the FBI had acted improperly.
20 The 18 couriers who were wrongfully suspended are still
21 not back on the job because of bureaucratic indecision
22 over whether they should take mandatory lie detector
23 tests. Moreover, the Energy Department official who
24 was transferred after the investigations found he had
25 acted improperly, was recently promoted. Overseeing

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1 the couriers is once again part of his job description.

2 MODERATOR BROWN: 30 seconds or so.

3 MS. ZOLKOVER: Is that five minutes already?

4 MODERATOR BROWN: Yes.

5 MS. ZOLKOVER: Oh, gosh. Well, what he has

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6 to say -- he says that the DOE should quit their work.
7 The Energy Department, in its current form, has
8 outlived its usefulness, but having said that is not
9 clear. Some want the Department dismantled, not
10 because they have a bias against government operations,
11 but because they believe that the DOE is simply not
12 reformable. DOE should be terminated because it is a
13 slovenly organization, a menace to public safety and
14 incorrigibly immune to reform, says Daniel S.
15 Greenberg, a prominent and influential science writer.
16 The Department's important functions must continue, but
17 they should be put under the management of government
18 agencies that can responsibly handle complex affairs.
19 I didn't even get to the Rocky Mountain, 16 miles from
20 downtown Denver, they were almost all irradiated by
21 7,600 pounds of radioactive nuclear waste after the DOE
22 several times removed heat detectors and they refused
23 to have people patrol 24 hours a day. They had major
24 fires. And it was a miracle that the water put it out.